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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

for the Year 1938,

by

**R. DE VEIL KING,**

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.



# WELLINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1938.

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### *Chairman of the Public Health Committee—*

CAPT. J. WYNDHAM, J.P.

## WELLINGTON RURAL DISTRICT.

### STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1938.

Area (in Acres) .....	37,911
Estimate of Resident Population, Mid-year 1938 .....	7,147
Census Population, 1931 .....	7,525
No. of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books on December 31st., 1938 .....	2,169
Rateable value—1st April, 1938 .....	£28,325
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, 31st March 1938	£126 18s. 8d.

### EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	93	53	40
	Illegitimate	2	1	1
		95	54	41

} Birth rate per 1,000  
of the estimated  
resident pop.....13.29

Still Births—	3	2	1
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .....			30.61
Deaths—	105	55	50
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident Pop.			14.69

Deaths from puerperal causes (headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):—

	Deaths.	Rates per 1,000 total (live and still) Births.
No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis	} Nil.	Nil.
No. 30. Other puerperal causes		

## Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

Legitimate, 5—Illegitimate, 1:—Total Infant Deaths	6
All Infants per 1,000 live births .....	63.15
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	53.54
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	500.0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages ) .....	19
Measles (all ages) .....	—
Whooping Cough (all ages) .....	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .....	—

The rates for the area can be compared with the rates for England and Wales in the following table: the local crude death rate has been multiplied by the factor 0.79 supplied by the Registrar-General to make this rate strictly comparable with that for England and Wales:—

	<i>E. &amp; W.</i>	<i>Wellington R.D.</i>
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	15.10	13.29
Still birth rate per 1,000 population	0.60	0.41
Death rate per 1,000 population	11.60	11.60
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	53.00	63.15
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births:—		
(a) Puerperal Sepsis	0.89	—
(b) Other causes	2.19	—
Total	3.08	Nil.

## INFANT MORTALITY DURING 1938.

The following table gives the causes and ages at death of the infants who died under one year of age:—

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 - 12 months	Total under 1 year
Shock from Immersion	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Malformation	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Anoxaemia .....	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Peterus Neonatorum .....	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Meningitis .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
	4	—	1	—	5	—	—	1	—	6



CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1938.  
as Supplied by the Registrar-General.

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
All Causes .....	55	50	105
Respiratory Tuberculosis .....	2	1	3
Other Tuberculosis .....	1	—	1
Cancer .....	7	12	19
Diabetes .....	—	1	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage .....	—	5	5
Heart Disease .....	7	13	20
Aneurysm .....	1	—	1
Other Circulatory Diseases .....	6	6	12
Bronchitis .....	3	1	4
Pneumonia (all forms) .....	1	1	2
Other Respiratory Disease .....	1	1	2
Septic Ulcer .....	2	—	2
Appendicitis .....	1	—	1
Other Liver disease .....	1	—	1
Other Digestive Disease .....	1	—	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis .....	2	—	2
Congenital Debility, Premature birth, etc. ....	2	2	4
Senility .....	2	5	7
Suicide .....	2	—	2
Other Violence .....	4	—	4
Other Defined Disease .....	9	2	11

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.  
*Hospitals.*

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Cases of infectious diseases are sent to the Taunton and District Joint Isolation Hospital situated in the Borough of Taunton—Wellington Rural District is one of the contributory Authorities.

Severe cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum are admitted to the Hospital but are maintained by the County Council.

Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia are admitted through and maintained by the County Council, to the Puerperal Sepsis Block of the Isolation Hospital. This new Block commenced to admit cases from May, 1938.

**TUBERCULOSIS.**—Cases of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis come under the County Scheme for treatment. The pulmonary cases are sent to Quantock Sanatorium if the disease is in an early stage and the more advanced cases are sent to Taunton Sanatorium in the Borough of Taunton. Cases requiring Orthopaedic treatment are admitted to Chard Sanatorium or to the Bath Orthopaedic Hospital. Pre-tubercular children and children with Tubercular Glands are sent to Compton Bishop Children's Home, near Axbridge.

**SMALL-POX.**—Provision for the accommodation of cases of Small-pox is made by the County Council at its Hospital at Cossington, near Bridgwater.

**GENERAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL.**—The district is served by the Cottage Hospital in Wellington, and there are in-patient and out-patient facilities available at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital in the Borough of Taunton, and the Hospitals in Bristol.

**CHRONIC SICK.**—These are received into the Public Assistance Institution situated in the Urban District of Wellington.

**MENTAL SICK.**—Cases are sent to the Mental Hospital at Cotford.

#### *Clinics and Treatment Centres.*

**TUBERCULOSIS.**—A Clinic is held once a week in the Urban District of Wellington at which the services of a County Tuberculosis Officer are available. In conjunction with the Clinic there is an after Care Committee working in co-operation with the Tuberculosis Officer.

**VENEREAL DISEASES.**—A Clinic and treatment centre combined are maintained by the County Council at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital.

**MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.**—The Maternity and Child Welfare Acts are administered by the County Council, under whose supervision are also the Midwives practicing in the Area. There is an excellent Maternity Home in Wellington Urban District, with eight beds, one receiving bed and a bed in the Labour Ward, to which a considerable number of mothers are admitted for confinement from the Rural District. Every case of Puerperal Pyrexia and Maternal Mortality is investigated by the Medical Staff of the County Council.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.—The County Laboratory is situated in the Borough of Taunton. No charge is made for general Bacteriological examinations of swabs, blood, sputum, etc., etc. This service is also available without charge to Medical men practicing in the district. Bacteriological and Chemical analyses are also undertaken for the examination of milk, foods, water supplies, sewage effluents, etc.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—The Wellington and District Ambulance Society under the auspices of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, was inaugurated in 1930. During 1931, the Wellington Urban District Council made a grant of £100 and the Wellington Rural District Council a grant of £50 towards the initial cost of an Ambulance and it serves the areas of these two Authorities. Each Authority is represented on the Society's Committee. The Ambulance Service is well organised, highly efficient and adequate for the areas served.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### *Water Supply.*

The following is a detailed statement of the Water Supplies of the area, by Parishes:—

ASHBRITTLE.—Village. From a spring belonging to the Council which is piped to the Village Pump and Shute. The remainder of the Parish is supplied from private wells and springs. The Village Supply was unsatisfactory on analysis and measures have been taken to protect the supply from contamination. A well supplying the Council houses (Rectory Road) in this Parish was also found to be unsatisfactory and has been chlorinated and repaired.

BATHEALTON.—Village. From a well with Pump. Remainder of the Parish from private wells and springs.

BRADFORD.—The mains, to supply water from the Taunton Corporation Water Undertaking, have been completed and water will be supplied soon. Some parts of the Parish will continue to be supplied from private wells and springs.

CHIPSTABLE.—Village. From two springs belonging to the Council the water from which is piped to a Standpipe. The water from the Standpipe was found not quite satisfactory on four occasions during the year: the reservoir was cleaned out, repaired and chlorinated. All other supplies are by wells and springs to individual properties.



FITZHEAD.—Village. From a spring in private ownership to a well which is repaired by the Council, and piped to a pump and trough. All other supplies are by wells and springs to individual properties. A certain portion of the Parish will soon be supplied from mains at Halse in the Taunton Rural District.

LANGFORD BUDVILLE.—Village. A piped supply from springs in private ownership. The remainder of the Parish from wells and springs in private ownership.

MILVERTON.—A piped supply from a reservoir at Furbers derived from springs, the yield being about 30,000 gallons daily. In order to supplement this supply, a borehole was commenced near Olands during the year. From this source it is hoped also to supply the village of Preston. The remainder of the Parish is supplied from private wells and springs.

NYNEHEAD.—Village. By a piped supply from springs in private ownership. The remainder of the Parish from wells and springs in private ownership.

OAKE.—This Parish is entirely supplied from wells in private ownership. The wells are generally shallow. The Council are considering a water supply for part of this Parish.

SAMPFORD ARUNDEL.—Sampford Moor has a piped supply by gravitation from a spring in the Council's ownership. The yield is about 5,000 gallons daily and supplies about 24 houses. The village of Sampford Arundel and the remainder of the Parish are supplied from private wells and springs, but a scheme is in hand for the renewal and extension of the mains in Sampford Moor to supply the village.

STAWLEY.—There are two piped supplies in private ownership at Kittisford and Greenham respectively. The remainder of the Parish is supplied from Wells and springs in private ownership. A report on the water supply in several regions of the Parish is being prepared and so far the bacteriological examination of 15 waters show one to be satisfactory, six not quite satisfactory and eight unfit for drinking.

THORNE ST. MARGARET.—Village. This is supplied from a shute and well in private ownership. The remainder of the Parish is supplied from wells and springs in private ownership. The question of a water supply for this parish is being considered by the Council.

WELLINGTON WITHOUT.—There is a roadside spring in public ownership at Holywell Lake. This supply is not piped but the Council are considering doing so. Gaugings of a Spring at Ford

have been taken during the year for the purposes of a piped supply but they have proved inadequate and further likely sources are to be gauged. The remainder of the Parish is supplied from private wells and springs.

WEST BUCKLAND.—The mains to supply water to this Parish from the Taunton Corporation Water undertaking, have been completed and water will be available soon. Some parts of the Parish will still be dependent on wells and springs.

WIVELISCOMBE.—Water is obtained from springs on the Withycombe gathering ground and piped to a reservoir of 600,000 gallons capacity and supplies the town by gravitation. The water is not bacteriologically pure from all the springs but the combined water in the reservoir is efficiently chlorinated and invariably gives good bacteriological analyses. In addition, a bacteriologically pure water is derived from a bore-hole 285 feet deep which is pumped into the reservoir as a supplementary supply.

WIVELISCOMBE WITHOUT.—The village of Langley has a piped supply in the Council's ownership, which is derived from springs by gravitation. The remainder of the Parish is supplied from privately owned wells and springs.

As mentioned under the heading of Wellington Without, the Council propose piping the spring at Holywell Lake: it is an excellent water and though hard, it is not too hard for domestic purposes. The following is its chemical analysis:—

Physical Characters .....	Clear and Bright		
Reaction .....	Slightly Alkaline	ph-7.4	
Total Solids .....	36.4	parts per 100,000	
Alkalinity (as $\text{CaCO}_3$ ) .....	22.5	, ,	, ,
Total Hardness .....	27.0	, ,	, ,
(a) Temporary .....	19.5	, ,	, ,
(b) Permanent .....	7.5	, ,	, ,
Chlorine (in terms of sodium chloride)	3.8	, ,	, ,
Nitrogen as Saline and free Ammonia			
less than .....	0.0004	, ,	, ,
Nitrogen as Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0022	, ,	, ,
Nitrogen as Nitrates .....	1.1	, ,	, ,
Nitrogen as Nitrites .....	nil.	, ,	, ,
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate			
(4hrs. at 80 degrees F.) .....	nil	, ,	, ,
Poisonous Metals .....	Absent	, ,	, ,
Free Carbon Dioxide .....	1.0	, ,	, ,
Silica ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ) .....	0.08	, ,	, ,
Sediment .....	nil	, ,	, ,



In addition to its excellent chemical qualities, the water is pure from a bacteriological standard, B.Coli and Streptococci being absent from 50 c.c.

The following is a summary of water Analyses during 1938:—

<i>Origin of Water.</i>	<i>Chemical</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsat' fac' ry</i>	<i>Unfit</i>	<i>Total</i>
Public Supplies .....	1	23	12	2	38
Council Houses .....	—	11	3	—	14
Private Supplies .....	—	15	7	20	42
Proposed Public Supply	—	1	—	—	1
Stawley Parish .....	—	1	6	8	15
	1	51	28	30	110

**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**—An outline of the drainage and sewerage of the district was given in the Report for 1933. The scheme for sewerage Langley mentioned in the Report for 1937, was commenced during 1938 and is nearly completed. The sewerage scheme also mentioned in 1937 for Holywell Lake will shortly be ready for submission to the Ministry of Health with the Council's application for sanction to the necessary loan.

**RIVERS AND STREAMS.**—The only complaint during the year has been the alleged pollution of the Hillfarrance Brook which receives the effluent from Milverton Sewage Disposal Works. The effluent was analysed and found to have no excessive amount of solids in suspension and absorbed no excessive amount of dissolved oxygen; therefore the sample was satisfactory; but as there is a probability of the effluent not remaining in a satisfactory condition, the Council have this matter under consideration.

**CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.**—There are no complete records as to the respective number of Earth Closets and Water Closets in the district. During the last three years 21 Earth Closets have been converted to Water Closets.

**PUBLIC CLEANSING.**—Refuse collection is undertaken by the Council in the following areas.

Quarterly Collection:—Bathealton, Bradford, Fitzhead, Langford Budville, Nynhead, Sampford Arundel, Wellington Without, and West Buckland.

Monthly collection—Ford in Wiveliscombe Without.

Fortnightly Collection:—Langley in Wiveliscombe Without and Milverton.

Weekly Collection—Wiveliscombe.

Refuse disposal sites are dealt with satisfactorily in accordance with the precautions suggested by the Ministry of Health in relation to dumping and the prevention of nuisance from refuse tips. The Council do not undertake cesspool cleansing.

#### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following tabular statement is furnished by the Council's Sanitary Inspector under Art. 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulations, 1935:—

##### Nature and number of Inspections during the year:—

Dwelling-houses .....	203
Dwelling-houses re-inspected .....	215
Slaughter-houses .....	117
Bakehouses .....	21
Disinfections for Infectious Diseases .....	4
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops .....	41
Miscellaneous Nuisances .....	69
Factories and Workshops .....	23

##### Number of notices served during the year:—

Informal notices .....	66
Statutory notices .....	20

##### Result of Notices served:—

Complied with .....	44
In hand .....	46

SHOPS AND OFFICES.—Under the provisions of Section 13 (3) of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to Sanitary conveniences, no inspections were made. Local Authorities have now enlarged powers and duties in respect of Offices consequent on the wide definition of "Work-place" in Section 343 of the Public Health Act, 1936. The new definition embraces all places of clerical employment and removes the doubt which previously existed as to the extent to which local authorities had control over the condition of offices; right of entry to such premises is given under Section 287 of the same Act, whilst Section 92 (1) (a) and (e) give power to treat as a Statutory nuisance, premises which are in such a state as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance and to prevent insufficient ventilation or uncleanness or obnoxious effluvia or overcrowding in offices. No inspection of offices has been undertaken during the year under review. The Minister of Health considers it of great importance to national health that conditions in Offices should not be such as to be prejudicial to the health of the employees.



**CAMPING SITES.**—Sites used for Camping during 1938 numbered four only and the Local Authority have not issued any licences in respect of them. It is estimated that the maximum number of campers in the area at any one time during the summer season would not exceed 12. Owing to the district being an inland Rural area, campers seldom stay for more than one night for rest. It would appear that the sites are not occupied continually for the 42 consecutive days laid down by the Act.

**SMOKE ABATEMENT.**—No action has been found necessary to be taken under Section 101 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

**OFFENSIVE TRADES.**—There are no offensive trades in the district, within the meaning of Section 107 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

**SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.**—There is a Public Swimming Bath in Wiveliscombe. It is fed by spring water from Withycombe and Coate. Previous analyses have shown that these are highly polluted, so that chlorination of the water was necessary before it entered the Swimming Bath. Two samples of the Bath water were taken during the year, one was reported as “fairly satisfactory” and the other as “satisfactory.”

**ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.**—No action was found necessary under this heading. Two Council houses were sprayed with “Zaldecide” on account of flea infestation.

**SCHOOLS.**—The Sanitary condition and water supply of the Schools are satisfactory. There is close co-operation between the Teachers and the Medical Officer of Health in all matters connected with infectious diseases.

## **HOUSING.**

The particulars given below are in the form required annually by the Minister of Health:—

1. *Inspection of dwelling-houses during the Year:—*

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .....	203
(b)	Number of inspections made for this purpose .....	253
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling - houses (included under sub-heading (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 .....	74
(b)	Number of inspections made for this purpose .....	65

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	11
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....	127
2. <i>Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:—</i>	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers .....	66
3. <i>Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—</i>	
(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .....	19
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners .....	11
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .....	—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .....	12
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners .....	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .....	—
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition Orders were made .....	5
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....	4
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .....	—

(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .....	—
4.	<i>Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding:—</i>	
(a) (1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .....	29
(2)	Number of families dwelling therein .....	32
(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein .....	161
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .....	—
(c) (1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .....	11
(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases .....	78
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding .....	—
(e)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report .....	—

*Number of new houses erected during the Year:—*

(1)	By Local Authority—	
	With State Assistance—	
(a)	Rehousing under Housing Act, 1936 .....	58
(b)	Overcrowding .....	—
(c)	Other .....	—
	Without State Assistance:—	—
(2)	By other bodies or persons—	
(a)	With State Assistance .....	—
(b)	Without State Assistance .....	12

The position, with regard to the number of Dwelling-houses built or in course of erection by the Council up to December 31st, 1938, is as follows:—

Under 1890 Act .....	14
„ 1919 Act .....	16
„ 1924 Act .....	122
„ 1936 Act .....	58
and in course of erection under 1936 Act .....	7

The houses in course of erection are three in Wiveliscombe and four at Holywell Lake in the Parish of Wellington Without.



HOUSING ACT, 1936.—In the Report for 1937, a Summary of the work done, under Sections 11 and 25 of the Housing Act, 1936, was given. Calways Slum Clearance Order (West Buckland Parish) which was not confirmed by the Minister of Health has since been dealt with under Section 11 of the Act. The owner has applied for a grant under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts and the application has been approved.

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACTS, 1926/1931. (Amended by the Housing Act, 1935.).

These Acts have been further amended by the Housing (Rural Workers) Amendment Act, 1938, which extends the provisions of the Acts until the 30th September, 1942. Grants of up to two-thirds of the cost of the works, with a maximum of £100 per dwelling, is still available for the renovation of suitable dwellings. Applications are made to the Somerset County Council. Grants of lump sums under the Acts may now be paid by instalments as the reconditioning progresses.

More use is being made of the Acts as may be seen from the following summary:—

In 1936, three applications were made, two were approved, the cost of the two cottages being £189 and £282 2s. 10d. respectively, total £471 2s. 10d. Lack of air space was the reason for the third cottage not being approved. In 1937, one cottage was approved, the cost being £262 18s. 6d. In 1938, 12 cottages were approved the individual cost being:—

<i>Cost.</i>			<i>Number of</i>
£	s.	d.	<i>Cottages.</i>
208	7	0	1
237	5	0	1
430	16	6	1
209	13	0	1
691	2	0	2
619	15	10	2
402	11	4	1
362	3	11	2
274	0	0	1
<hr/>			<hr/>
Total £3,435	14	7	12
<hr/>			<hr/>

Therefore, from 1936 to 1938 inclusive 15 cottages have been renovated at a total cost of £4,169 15s. 11d. or an average of £271 6s. 5d. approximately per cottage. These costs include Architect's fees.



## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.—The usual routine work with regard to safeguarding the milk supply has been carried out, including the systematic inspection of farms and dairies, the taking of samples of milk for bacterial content and for tubercle bacilli, and the administration of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938. No legal action was necessary during the year. No cows were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925.

86 samples of milk were taken during the year (against 76 the year before) for bacteriological examination by the County Analyst, as follows:—

<i>Designation.</i>	<i>No. of Samples taken.</i>	<i>No. found satisfactory</i>	<i>No. found unsatisfactory</i>
Tuberculin Tested .....	25	22	3
Accredited .....	42	32	10
Pasteurised .....	7	6	1
Examined for tubercle bacilli	12	12	—
Totals ..	86	72	14

That 16% of the samples taken should prove to be unsatisfactory shows the importance of inspecting milk producing premises frequently, and of educating milk producers into good methods of milk production. There is a marked improvement from last year when 25% of the samples taken were unsatisfactory. As there are 180 producers of milk on the Register, the work of inspection takes up a large proportion of the Sanitary Inspector's time.

The following Licences are in force in the district:—

Tuberculin Tested Milk, 6: Accredited Milk, 11.

In addition the District Council have issued the following Supplementary Milk Licences for milk retailed within the District but not produced therein:—

Pasteurised, 2: Accredited, 1.

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926—The Registers which have to be kept under this Order supply the following information:—

No. of Producers on the Register ..... 180

No. of Distributors divided as follows:—

Distributors only ..... nil

Distributors who are also producers ..... 62

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—The usual routine inspections of meat and of Slaughter Houses were carried out under the Public Health (Meat Regulations), 1924—1935. No Legal Action was found necessary to be taken during the year. Contraventions of minor matters relating to the Regulations were found and were remedied after informal notices. There is no Meat Marking Scheme under Part 3 of the Regulations of 1924, in force in the District.

There are eight licensed slaughter-houses in the district and 117 visits of inspection were made to them. The slaughter-houses are generally well maintained. All meat surrendered as unfit for human consumption was destroyed in the presence of the Sanitary Inspector. The following table gives the results of inspection and condemnation:—

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows.</i>	<i>Cows.</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>
Number killed (if known).....	—	—	—	—	—
Number Inspected .....	416	11	—	85	305
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis.</i>					
Whole Carcasses condemned	1	—	—	2	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	—	—	—	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis ....	0.7	—	—	2.3	0.3
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole Carcasses condemned	2 { 610 lbs. 680	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	—	—	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ....	0.7	—	—	—	0.6

ADULTERATION OF FOODS, ETC.—No action has been taken under the following Acts and Regulations:—Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928—Artificial Cream Act, 1929—Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927—Public

Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927— Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925 and 1927.

During the year, the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, was passed. This Act repeals some of the above Acts and at the same time consolidates and amends the law relating to Foods and Drugs, etc.

The new Act comes into operation on the 1st October, 1939.

**CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.**—Any food under suspicion may be submitted to the County Laboratory for examination and report. It was not found necessary to submit any samples to the County Laboratory for this purpose during 1938.

**SHELL FISH.**—There are no Shellfish Beds or Layings in this district.

**BAKEHOUSES.**—There are ten in the district and 21 inspections were made to them. No contraventions were observed. It is consoling to find in the new Food and Drugs Act, 1938, that the Minister of Health may make Regulations for preventing danger to health from the importation, transport, storage, exposure for sale and delivery of bread or flour. The present method of delivering bread to consumers cannot be termed hygienic.

## THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901, AND THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937 (which superseded the Act of 1901 on 1st July, 1938).

### 1.—**INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health.

Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises.  (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
<b>Factories</b> with mechanical power ..	8	—	—
<b>Factories</b> without mechanical power	15	—	—
† <b>Other Premises</b> under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises).	—	—	—
† Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories. <b>Total</b>	23	—	—



## 2.— DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	3	3	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2) ..	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) .. .. .	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4) .. .. .	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) .. ..	—	—	—	—
Sanitary { insufficient	—	—	—	—
Conveni- { unsuitable	2	—	—	—
ences (S. 7) { or defective				
{ not separate	—	—	—	—
{ for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences ....	1	1	—	—
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)				
<b>Total</b> ....	6	4	—	—

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There were nine notifications during the year for infectious diseases other than Tuberculosis. Four were for Scarlet Fever, two were for Pneumonia, one for Puerperal Pyrexia, one for Ophthalmia Neonatorum and one for Acute Polio-encephalitis. Three of the cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in one row of dwellings, and the other case was of separate origin. The following table specifies the diseases, age distribution and number admitted to the Isolation Hospital.

Diseases	No. of Cases Notified at Ages—Years.								No. Adm. to Hos- pital.
	At All Ages	0-1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 up	
Scarlet Fever.....	4	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	3
Polio-encephalitis	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Pneumonia.....	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
<b>Totals</b> .....	9	1	1	2	1	2	—	2	5



As the district is one of the Constituent Authorities forming the Taunton and District Joint Isolation Hospital Board, a summary of the cases treated therein and the Annual Report are attached to the end of this Report.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.—The County Council initiated a scheme for Immunisation against Diphtheria, commencing in October 1938. Broadly speaking, the Scheme is to provide immunisation for two categories of children, namely:

(a) the pre-School child, *i.e.*, for children under the age of five years and (b) the School child.

(a) The Scheme provides for the Pre-School child being immunised by the private Medical Practitioners of the Area: the immunising material to be used is Alum Precipitated Toxoid (A.P.T.) obtainable free on application to the County Council: the dosage of A.P.T. is 0.1 c.c. for the first dose, to be followed by a second dose of 0.5 c.c. after an interval of four weeks. Medical practitioners have to keep a record card supplied by the County Council, which they return to that Authority after completion and signature. A small fee of 5/- is paid by the County Council for each case immunised by the two doses. Immunisation is recommended from the 9th month onwards. No particulars are available as to the number of pre-school children immunised under this part of the Scheme since its inception last October.

(b) The Scheme provides for the immunisation of children of School age by the Medical Staff of the County Council. The immunising material, A.P.T., is the same with a similar dosage and interval between the doses as in (a), but the cost of the material is borne by the Local Authority in whose area the School children belong, an expense sanctioned by the Minister of Health under Section 177 (1) of the Public Health Act, 1936. This part of the County Council's Scheme must necessarily proceed by stages, and up to the end of the year 1938, the Scheme had not yet been put into operation in the Rural District of Wellington, but was to be commenced in 1939.

MEASLES SERUM.—The Local Authority have not yet been advised to take any action in regard to the use of Measles Serum for prophylaxis or attenuation. The extending use of the new Drug M and B.693 has done much to reduce or mitigate the more common complications of measles.

#### PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No arrangements have been made by the Local Authority with respect to the Prevention of Blindness under Section 176

of the Public Health Act, 1936. Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum are admitted to the Isolation Hospital for treatment, when necessary, under the County Council Scheme. One case was notified during the year and treated in the Isolation Hospital and completely recovered.

### TUBERCULOSIS.—New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the area during 1938 are given in the following form required by the Ministry of Health.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20 .....	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
20—25 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 .....	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
35—45 .....	3	—	—	—	3	1	—	—
45—55 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards ....	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals .....	3	1	—	2	3	1	—	—

The Tuberculosis Register shows that at the end of the year there were residing in the district, 42 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 20 cases of non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

No action had to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the Milk Trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.



# TAUNTON AND DISTRICT JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

SUMMARY of CASES TREATED etc. and ANALYSIS of ADMISSIONS to THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL during the TWELVE MONTHS ended 31st December, 1938.

Cases from the six Constituent Authorities.	In Hospital, 1st January, 1938.	Number admitted.	Number discharged.	Died.	Total Treated	Total patient days.	Remaining in Hos- pital 31. 12. 38.	Scarlet Fever.	Scarlet Fever with Diphtheria.	Diphtheria.	Diphtheria Carrier.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Erysipelas.	Enteric Fever.	Dysentery.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Measles with Pneumonia.	Whooping Cough with Pneumonia.	Mumps with complications.	Nursing Mother with Ophthalmia Infant.	Infants accompany- ing Puerperal Pyrexia Mothers.	Septic Tonsillitis.	Septic Dermatitis.	TOTAL ADMISSIONS.
Taunton M.B. ..	16	44	56	2	60	1835	2	21	1	12	-	2	3	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	44
Taunton R.D. ..	3	35	18	-	38	1729	20	7	-	13	10	2	-	1(NEG)	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	35
Wellington U.D. ..	3	9	12	-	12	364	-	7	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Wellington R.D. ..	2	5	7	-	7	174	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Dulverton R.D. ..	-	7	7	-	7	491	-	-	-	4	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	7
Bridgwater (South) R.D. ..	-	6	3	-	6	143	3	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	6
Totals: Constituent Authorities.	24	106	103	2	130	4736	25	41	1	30	10	7	3	2	1	3	1	4	-	1	-	1	1	106
Cases from other Authorities.																								
Yeovil R.D. ..	-	6	6	-	6	396	-	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Chard M.B. ..	-	3	3	-	3	74	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Chard R.D. ..	-	7	7	-	7	278	-	4	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Crewkerne U.D. ..	-	5	5	-	5	172	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Bridgwater U.D. ..	-	10	10	-	10	191	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	10
Bridgwater (N) R.D. ..	-	1	1	-	1	30	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Langport R.D. ..	-	3	3	-	3	68	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Military Depot Taunton	-	1	1	-	1	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Totals: Other Authorities	-	36	36	-	36	1224	-	16	-	5	1	8	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	36
Grand Totals: All Authorities	24	142	139	2	166	5960	25	57	1	35	11	15	3	2	1	5	1	4	1	1	1	3	1	142

COMMENTS, ETC., ON THE SUMMARY OF CASES TREATED IN THE  
ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The admissions have been allocated to the various Sanitary Districts from which the cases were derived, but they were not in all cases chargeable to those Districts: for convenience, an abstract of these cases is shown in the following Tables.

Sanitary District.	Diphtheria and Diphtheria Carriers.	Scarlet Fever.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Nursing Mothers and Infants.	Total cases chargeable to Somerset County Council.	Patient Days.
Taunton R.D.	23	1	2	—	—	26	1209
Wellington R.D.	—	—	1	1	—	2	34
Bridgwater R.D.	—	—	1	1	—	2	42
Dulverton R.D.	—	—	1	1	1	3	38
Chard R.D.	—	—	1	—	—	1	28
Langport R.D.	—	—	2	—	—	2	46
Bridgwater U.D.	—	—	5	2	3	10	191
	23	1	13	5	4	46	1588

DEATHS.—Two deaths occurred during the year, one from Whooping Cough and Pneumonia admitted in a moribund condition and dying four hours after admission, and the other from Enteric Fever three days after admission from Cerebral Toxaemia.

OPERATIONS.—Two were performed by the Board's Surgeon for the enucleation of Tonsils and adenoids from two patients who were persistent Diphtheria Carriers.

PUERPERAL SEPSIS.—In May the Hospital was open to receive these cases, since then fifteen cases were admitted and discharged completely cured. Their average days of residence for each case was 24.06.

HOSPITAL STAFF.—One Probationer Nurse contracted Scarlet Fever during the year, otherwise the general health of the Nursing and Domestic Staffs has been excellent. The work of the Nurses has been very much increased since the admission of Puerperal Pyrexia cases. These cases require a great deal more nursing attention than the average type of case usually received into an Isolation Hospital, so that the Matron's ingenuity for the proper distribution of her Staff is frequently taxed to cope with sudden increases of work.

R. DE V. KING,  
Medical Superintendent.

27th February, 1939.











